

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated July 8, 2004, claim 2 has been cancelled, and claims 1, 12 and 17 have been amended. Claims 1, 3, 11, 12, and 17-19 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application is requested.

II. Examiner Interview Summary

Record is made of a telephone interview between Examiner Landau and Applicants' attorney that occurred on October 4, 2004 and a personal interview between Examiner Landau and Applicants' attorney that occurred on October 14, 2004. During both interviews, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, were discussed. Examiner Landau suggested possible claim amendments that would overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, during the personal interview. These amendments are reflected in this response.

III. Non-Art Rejections

On page (2) of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 11, 12, and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants' attorney has amended the claims to overcome this rejection.

IV. Prior Art Rejections

A. The Office Action Rejections

On page (3) of the Office Action, claims 1, 12, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Little et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,668,900 (Little). However, on page (4) of the Office Action, claims 2, 3, 11, 18, and 19 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants' attorney acknowledges the indication of allowable claims, and has amended independent claims 1 and 17 to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 2 (albeit with the limitations of dependent claims 2 modified to conform to the language of independent claims 1 and 17). Consequently, Applicants' attorney submits that all the claims are now allowable.

V. Conclusion

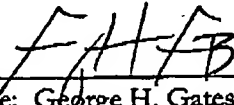
In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

GATES & COOPER LLP
Attorneys for Applicant

Howard Hughes Center
6701 Center Drive West, Suite 1050
Los Angeles, California 90045
(310) 641-8797

Date: October 27, 2004

By: 
Name: George H. Gates
Reg. No.: 33,500

GHG/io